

ESTABLISHED 1877-NEW SERIES.

WASHINGTON, D. C. THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1893.

VOL. XII-NO. 46-WHOLE NO. 618.

HISTORY OF THE CORPS.

How They Were Formed and of What Troops Composed; the Casualties and Rosters of Corps, Division and Brigade Commanders.

THE SEVENTEENTH CORPS.

Battles of Atlanta and Ezra Church—Siege Operations. Battle of Jonesboro and Operations About Lovejoy's Station.

RED RIVER CAMPAIGN.

Expeditions to Yazoo City, Jackson and Tupelo—Engagement at Brice's Crossroads, Near Gun-town—March to the Sea, and Campaign of the Carolinas.

(Continued from last week.)

On the morning of July 22 Gen. Blair discovered that the enemy had withdrawn from his front during the night before, and had fallen back to the heavy fortifications of the city of Atlanta.

Gen. Blair was then ordered by Gen. McPherson to send out working parties and construct works on the line of the enemy's rifle-pits, and to occupy them as soon as completed, and as soon as Gen. Dodge, with the Sixteenth Corps, who was ordered to take position on the left, could throw up works, to cover his men on that line. At this time the Sixteenth Corps was marching to the position on the left of Gen. Blair, the head of the column being on the clay road, a mile and a quarter, in rear of the line of the Seventeenth Corps.

Shortly thereafter an attack was made upon the flank and rear of the Union lines by the whole of Hardee's Corps, the divisions of the Seventeenth Corps.



GEN. WALTER Q. GRESHAM.

ions of Bate and Walker falling upon Dodge's command, and the divisions of Cleburne and Cheatham (under command on that occasion of Gen. Maury) striking Gen. Blair's left flank and swinging around through a wide interval or gap between Blair's extreme left and the right of Gen. Dodge, reaching to Blair's extreme right and occupying the breastworks constructed by Gen. Leggett and Smith in their advance upon the bald hill, and as far to the right of it as Gen. Leggett's command extended.

At the same time the enemy advanced upon Gen. Blair's line and that of the Fifteenth Corps, on his right, from the direction of Atlanta, with Hood's old corps, commanded on this occasion by Gen. Cheatham. The Seventeenth Corps was thus completely enveloped, and attacked from the front, flank, and rear. Gen. McPherson was killed by the enemy as they swung through the gap between Gen. Blair's left and Gen. Dodge's right, on a road which passed through the woods in rear of Gen. Blair's line. Gen. Blair at once notified Gen. Logan of the death of Gen. McPherson, and the former, being the senior officer of the Army of the Tennessee, assumed command.

Gen. McPherson before his death sent word to Gen. G. A. Smith, commanding the Fourth Division of the Seventeenth Corps, and holding the extreme left, to hold his position, and that he would order up troops to occupy the gap between the Seventeenth and Sixteenth Corps.

In pursuance of these orders Col. Wagoner's Brigade (First Division, Fifteenth Corps) came up on the double-quick, and took position on a knoll in the edge of the timber between Gen. Dodge and the right of Gen. Blair's line, but the brigade was so small (about 600 or 700 men) that it did not fill the gap, and the enemy had already, before this brigade had time to assume its position, passed through the interval and attacked the Seventeenth Corps directly in the rear. The two divisions took the opposite side of their breastworks, and repulsed them with severe loss.

The attack was renewed from the same direction upon Leggett's Division, but was again repulsed with great slaughter. This was followed by an attack upon Gen. G. A.

Smith's Division, which came upon his flank and rear as his troops stood on the reverse side of their works, with their backs to the city of Atlanta. Both brigades of this division were immediately formed to meet this attack, at right angles with their works in the open field, and the enemy were repulsed with great loss and driven back in confusion. The third attack made upon Gen. Leggett's Division came from the direction of Atlanta, and a skirmish-line, followed by a heavy force, advanced from that direction with great impetuosity. The division changed front, got on the east side of the breastworks, and again repulsed the enemy in handsome style. The enemy rallied, reformed their lines, and returned to the charge, but were repulsed and driven back, leaving their killed and wounded on the ground.

About 4 o'clock in the evening the enemy renewed their attack upon Gen. Smith's Division from the east side of the works, and the men again jumped over the breastworks and received the enemy with the greatest constancy and courage. This attack was the fiercest and most persistent made during the day. The enemy approached under cover of the woods to within less than 40 or 50 yards without being perceived, and pressed forward under a deadly fire from the entire division and two regiments of Gen. Leggett's Division up to the breastworks occupied by the Union troops, and until the men could reach one another with their bayonets, and the officers used their swords in hand-to-hand encounter. The enemy's loss in this assault, which lasted three-quarters of an hour, was very severe. They finally yielded, and reluctantly fell back.

In a short time the enemy again advanced from the direction of Atlanta, and at the same time attacked from the flank and rear, using their artillery loaded with grape and canister, and heavy musketry, rendering it necessary to abandon a large portion of the works which had been held by the Fourth Division and a part of the Third Division.

A new line was then formed, facing south and extending east from the crest of the bald hill captured by Gen. Leggett on the 21st, Gen. Leggett extending also to the right of this hill facing west toward Atlanta with one of his brigades and the 11th Iowa, from the Fourth Division, the balance of his division holding the crest and extending eastwardly down the slope of the hill in an open field, the Fourth Division forming on his left and extending still farther to the east, facing to the south, and connecting with Wagoner's Brigade, of the Fifteenth Corps, which had been ordered up for that purpose.

These dispositions of the two divisions were made under a heavy fire of musketry and artillery from the advancing enemy, composed of fresh troops commanded by Brig. Gen. Mansy. They made a determined and resolute attack, advancing up to the Union breastworks on the crest of the hill, planted their flags side by side with those of the Seventeenth Corps, and fought hand-to-hand until it grew so dark that nothing could be seen but the flash of the guns from the opposite side of the same works. The enemy made a desperate and determined attempt to retake the hill, but were met by Gen. Leggett with equal determination. The ground over which this assault was made was literally strewn with the enemy's dead, but, as the enemy held the ground up to the Union lines until nearly daylight the next morning, he was able to remove all of his wounded and the dead bodies of many officers.

The loss in the corps on the 22d was very severe. Among the missing was the 16th Iowa (245 men), which was on the extreme left of the Fourth Division, and was completely enveloped and cut off by the enemy in their first attack, which was so sudden and unexpected in that quarter as to make it impossible to guard against it. In the same attack a section of Battery F, 2d Ill. Art., which was in position on the left, was captured. Many of the men detailed on the working parties to construct a new line of works in advance were also cut off, and fell into the enemy's hands; but a large number of them reported as missing were either killed or wounded, and left on the ground that the corps was compelled to abandon later in the day. At least 500 prisoners were captured from the enemy, and their loss in killed and wounded in front of the Seventeenth Corps was very heavy.

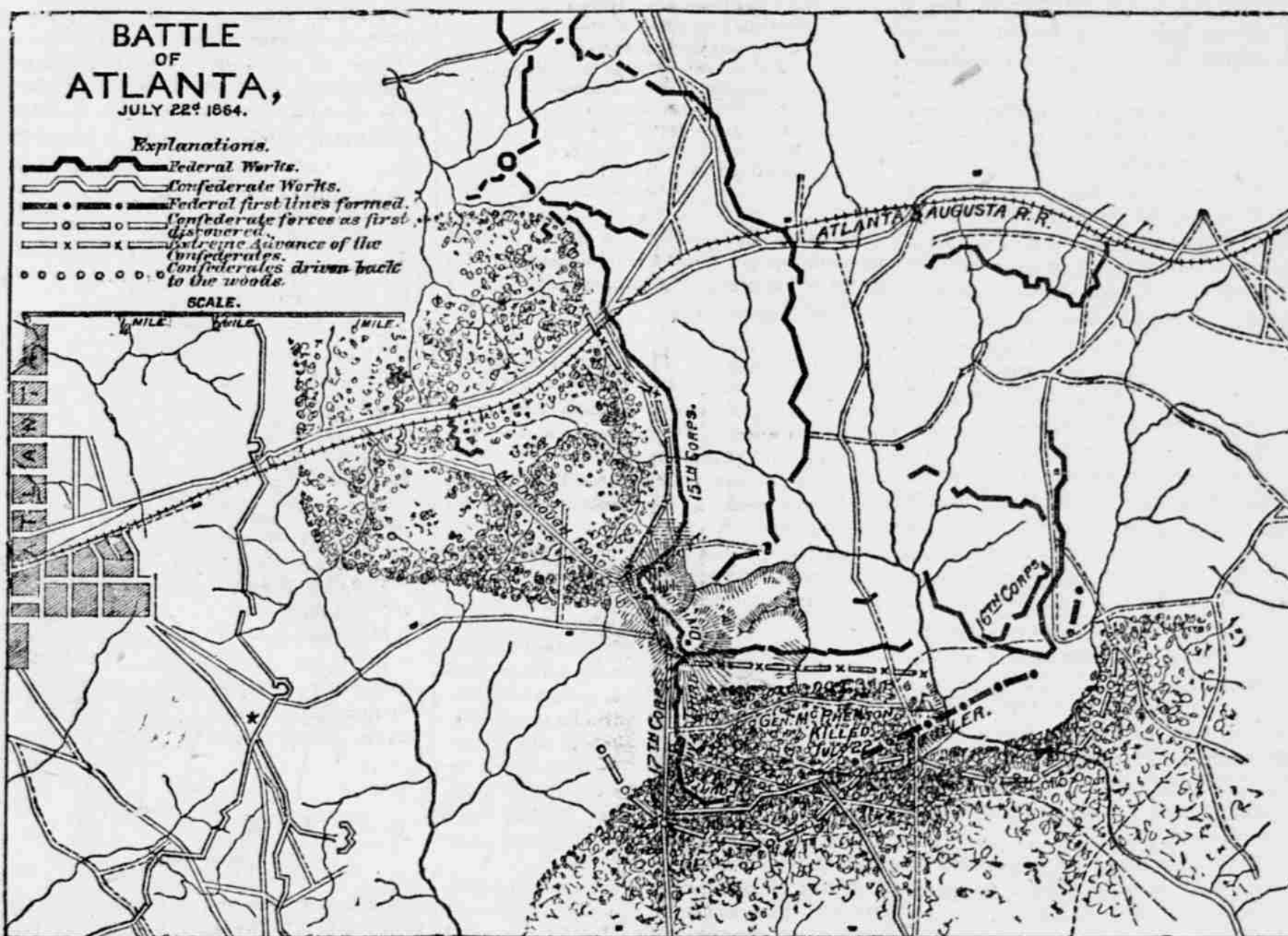
On the morning after the fight the enemy sent a flag of truce to bury their dead, and the Seventeenth Corps buried, and delivered over to the enemy to be buried, of their dead between 900 and 1,000. These were collected from the ground which formed only a part of Gen. Leggett's position. About



GEN. GILES A. SMITH.

one-third of the ground occupied by Gen. Leggett, and the whole of the position which had been held by Gen. Smith, having been abandoned late in the day remained in the enemy's hands, and upon this ground the enemy collected and buried their own dead; but upon this ground the fighting had raged for over five hours, and the enemy had been repulsed with immense slaughter, in five or six distinct assaults.

The Seventeenth Corps remained in the position it occupied until the morning of



the 27th, when it withdrew and took position near Ezra Church, on the extreme right of the army. During the attack on the Fifteenth Corps at that place on the 26th Gen. Blair, under order of the Major-General commanding, sent the 12th Wis. and 31st Ill., of the Third Division, and the 3d, 13th and 15th Iowa, and 32d Ohio, of the Fourth Division, to the assistance of that corps. These regiments reached the scene of action in time to prevent the enemy from turning the right of the line, and were all hotly engaged and did excellent service.

From this time until the 26th of August the corps was occupied in siege operations, being subjected day and night to a galling fire of artillery and musketry. On the 26th the command moved at 8 p. m., reaching Camp Creek by 10 a. m. on the 27th. The



GEN. T. E. G. RANSOM.

next day the corps moved to a point on the West Point Railroad between Fairburn and Red Oak, and a large fatigue party was set to work destroying the railroad. The work of destruction continued on the 29th, and on the 30th the corps moved in the rear of the Sixteenth towards Jonesboro.

On the morning of the 31st the corps reached Flint River and was placed in position on the north bank, refused on the left of the Fifteenth Corps. In the fight before Jonesboro on this day the First Brigade of the Third Division, Col. George E. Bryant commanding, was sent as a reinforcement to the Fifteenth Corps. The brigade consisted of the 12th and 16th Wis. and 31st Ill., and was at once placed in position and aided in resisting the charge of the enemy made shortly after its arrival on the field, losing 262 men killed, wounded, and missing.

When the Confederates retreated south from Jonesboro the corps moved in the direction of Lovejoy's Station, when it was placed in position on the extreme right of the army, remaining there, under a heavy skirmish fire, until the 5th of September, when it moved to the vicinity of East Point, and subsequently to the Macon and Atlanta road, where it remained, recuperating and reorganizing until called upon in October to take part in the northward movement against Gen. Hood.

From the 10th of June to the 10th of September the corps lost 3,259 killed, wounded and missing, as follows: Third Division—Commissioned officers killed, 4; wounded, 43; missing, 16; total, 63. Enlisted men killed, 234; wounded, 857; missing, 266; total, 1,357. Fourth Division—Commissioned officers killed, 13; wounded, 43; missing, 27; total, 83. Enlisted men killed, 171; wounded, 856; missing, 729; total, 1,756.

RED RIVER CAMPAIGN.

Previous to the assignment of Gen. Grant to the command of the Armies of the United States, an expedition up the Red River against Shreveport, La., had been organized by Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, and one division of the Sixteenth Corps, under Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Mower, and one division of the Seventeenth Corps, under Brig. Gen. Thomas Kilby Smith, the whole under the command of Brig. Gen. A. J. Smith, were detached from Gen. Sherman's army and embarked at Vicksburg on the evening of the 10th of March, 1864, with orders to proceed with the command to the mouth of Red River, where Admiral Porter would be found with a portion of the Mississippi River squadron, and after conference with him the troops were to proceed up Red River to Alexandria, La., and there report to Gen. Banks and operate under his immediate orders during the proposed campaign.

In obedience to these orders the command

embarked at the time and place designated, the detachment of the Seventeenth Corps, styled the Provisional Division, about 2,300 strong, rank and file, consisting of the following troops:

First Brigade—Col. Jonathan B. Moore—41st Ill., 3d Iowa, and 33d Wis. Second Brigade—Col. Lyman M. Ward—51st and 95th Ill., and 14th Wis. Artillery—Battery M, 1st Mo.

Red River was reached on the following day, and on the 12th of March the Union land and naval forces under Gen. Smith and Admiral Porter entered that stream, capturing Fort De Russy on the 14th and occupying Alexandria on the 16th. Gen. Banks arrived on the 24th, and on the 26th his advance movement from Alexandria began. During the campaign that followed, the Division, of the Seventeenth Corps, participated in whole or in part in the engagement at Blair's Landing or Pleasant Hill, La., April 12-13; skirmishes at and near Cloutiersville April 22-24; skirmishes at Gov. Moore's plantation May 1-4; skirmishes at Gov. Wells's and Boyce's plantations May 6; skirmish at Bayou Boeuf May 7; skirmish at Ayoyelles or Marksville Prairie May 15; action near Moreauville May 17, and engagement at Yellow Bayou May 18.

On the 14th of May Alexandria was evacuated by the Union forces, and on the 24th the detachment of the Seventeenth Corps reached Vicksburg, and moved from there to Memphis, arriving on the 30th, having marched by land during the campaign 239 miles. The casualties were as follows: Commissioned officers killed, 1; enlisted men killed, 12; wounded, 40; missing, 1; total, 54.

OPERATIONS, MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

The returns of the Department of the Tennessee give the following as the composition on the 31st of May, 1864, of that portion of the corps, left at Vicksburg and in the Mississippi Valley, when it started on the Atlanta campaign:

First Division—Brig. Gen. Elias S. Dennis. First Brigade—Col. Frederick A. Starling—72d Ill.; 1st Kan. (mounted); 30th Mo., and 58th Ohio. Second Brigade—Col. James H. Coates—11th, 46th and 76th Ill. Artillery—Batteries L, 2d Ill., and 7th Ohio battery.

Malby's Brigade, formerly Third Brigade of the Third Division, consisting of the 8th, 17th and 124th Ill., and 7th Mo., and the 8th and 26th Ohio batteries, was also reported at Vicksburg, and the Red River or Provisional Division at Memphis.

In May, 1864, the 11th, 46th, 72d, 76th and 124th Ill., Battery L, 2d Ill., 7th Ohio battery, together with detachments of the 5th and 6th Ill., and 3d U. S. C. Cav., ac-



GEN. J. A. MOWER.

companied Brig. Gen. John McArthur on an expedition from Vicksburg to Yazoo City, Miss., and in July, 1864, the 8th, 11th, 46th, 76th and 124th Ill. participated in the Jackson (Miss.) expedition, under the command of Maj. Gen. Henry W. Slocum, losing 27 killed, 139 wounded, and 30 captured or missing; and in the same month a detachment of the 41st Ill. and 14th and 33d Wis., 6th Ind. battery, and M, 1st Mo. Art., attached to the Sixteenth Corps, took part in the expedition to Tupelo, Miss., losing five killed and 49 wounded.

A portion of the Red River Division was with Brig. Gen. Sturgis on his expedition into Mississippi, and was engaged at Brice's Crossroads, near Guntown, on the 10th of June, 1864, the 81st Ill. losing 141 killed, wounded and missing, out of 371 men taken with them on the expedition. This division also took part in the famous battle and victory at Nashville, Tenn., in December, 1864.

With but few exceptions none of these

troops rejoined the corps, but were incorporated in the Sixteenth Corps in September, 1864, and when that corps was discontinued formed part of the command designated "Detachment of the Army of the Tennessee." When the Sixteenth Corps was reorganized, prior to the Mobile campaign of 1865, they were merged into that corps.

FINAL CAMPAIGNS.

On the 23d of September, 1864, the Fourth Division of the Sixteenth Corps was trans-



GEN. W. W. BELKNAP.

ferred to the Seventeenth Corps, and upon the reorganization of the corps was designated the First Division.

In the campaign through northern Georgia and northern Alabama in pursuit of Gen. Hood, and while on the march to the sea, the corps encountered but little or no fighting. Several minor engagements marked its advance through the Carolinas, and it was partially engaged in the battle of Bentonville.

The corps took part in the Grand Review at Washington, and in June, 1865, was ordered to Louisville, Ky., and was discontinued on the 28th of July, 1865.

[The end]

Origin of the Name Yankee.

The theories which have been advanced as to the origin of the name Yankees are numerous. According to Thiery, it was a corruption of Jakin, a diminutive of John, which was a nickname given by the Dutch colonists of New York to their neighbors in the Connecticut settlements.

In a history of the American war written by Dr. William Gordon and published in 1789 was another theory. Dr. Gordon said that it was a cant word in Cambridge, Mass., as early as 1713, used to denote especial excellence—as a Yankee good horse, Yankee good cider, etc. He supposed that it was originally a byword in the college, and being taken by the students into parts of the country gradually obtained general currency in New England, and at length came to be taken up in other parts of the country and applied to New Englanders as a term of slight reproach.

Aubrey, an English writer, says that it is derived from a Cherokee word—*yanke*, which signifies coward and slave. This epithet was bestowed upon the inhabitants of New England by the Virginians for not assisting them in a war with the Cherokees. The most probable theory, however, is that advanced by Mr. Heckewelder—that the Indians in endeavoring to pronounce the word English, or Anglians, made it Yengoes or Yangoes, and this originated the term.

A Scottish Newspaper Enterprise.

The *Weekly News*, of Dundee, Scotland, has inaugurated a scheme by which a number of British artists will be able to visit the World's Fair at Chicago this season. D. C. Thompson, one of the proprietors of the paper, made a tour of this country last year, and the idea came to him that it would be of incalculable advantage to have the tradesmen of his own country visit the United States and witness the methods of performing the various trade workings. In addition to the opportunity of inspecting and observing a scheme by which a number of British artists will be able to visit the World's Fair at Chicago this season. D. C. Thompson, one of the proprietors of the paper, made a tour of this country last year, and the idea came to him that it would be of incalculable advantage to have the tradesmen of his own country visit the United States and witness the methods of performing the various trade workings. 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